APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/942,225	08/29/2001	Richard S. Seymour	10007205-1	9162

7590   03/21/2006

HEWLETT-PACKARD COMPANY
Intellectual Property Administration
P.O. Box 272400
Fort Collins, CO 80527-2400

EXAMINER
JARRETT, SCOTT L

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
3623	

DATE MAILED: 03/21/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

	Application No.	Applicant(s)
Office Action Summary	09/942,225	SEYMOUR, RICHARD S.
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Scott L. Jarrett	3623	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE <u>3</u> MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.
- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
  Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any . earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on *11 January 2006*.

2a)☒ This action is **FINAL**.   2b)☐ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) *1-31* is/are pending in the application.

    4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) *1-31* is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☒ The drawing(s) filed on *11 January 2006* is/are: a)☒ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

    Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

    Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

    a)☐ All   b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

      1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

      2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

      3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

    * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1)☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2)☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3)☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
    Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.

4)☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
    Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ .
5)☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6)☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

1.   This **Final** Office Action is responsive to Applicant's remarks filed January 11,

2006. Applicant's amendment amended claims 17-22 and added new claims 23-31.

Currently Claims 1-31 are pending.

Response to Amendment

2.   Applicant's amendment filed January 11, 2006 necessitated the new ground(s) of

rejection presented in this Office action.

The Objection to the Drawings in the previous office action is withdrawn in

response to applicant's submission of corrected Drawings.

The U.S.C. 101 rejection of Claims 1-8 in the previous office action is withdrawn.

Response to Arguments

3.   Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-31 have been considered but are

moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

It is noted that the Applicant's did not challenge the Official Notice(s) cited in the

previous Office Action therefore those statements as presented are herein after prior

art.   Specifically it has been established that it was old and well known in the art at the

time of the invention to enable users to store and access information into and from a

database.

Title

4.   The title of the invention is not descriptive. A new title is required that is clearly indicative of the invention to which the claims are directed.

The following title is suggested: System and Method for Remotely Monitoring Printer Components In Multiple Organizations and Ordering Replacement Printer Components Based on User-Configurable Rules and Printer Component Events.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

5.   The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that

form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

> A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –
>
> (b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

6.   Claims 1, 9 and 17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) based upon a public use

or sale of the invention.

The public use or sale of the invention, a system and method for managing

printer component inventories as sold by the Applicant's under one or more of the

following product/service names: JetAdmin or Web JetAdmin is evidenced by at least

HP.com Web Pages (May 1999).

Regarding Claims 1, 9 and 17 HP teaches a system and method for managing

printer component inventories (remote printer management) comprising:

-       defining one or more printer component rules for one or more printers in more

than one (first/second) organization wherein each printer component rule defines a

printer component event that indicates that the printer component requires replacement

("Remote Management, Page 1, Last Row; "Configurable Alerts", Page 2, Row 2; Page

4);

-       monitoring the printer components in more than one (first/second) organization

printers to detect an occurrence of a printer component event as defined by the printer

component rule ("Enhanced Management Capabilities", Page 1; "Enhanced

Consumables Status", Page 2, Row 3; Page 4; Figures 2, 6); and

     - replacing a printer component when a printer component event is detected

("checking how soon a device will need consumables ordered", Last Paragraph, Page

4).

     An issue of public use or on sale activity has been raised in this application. In

order for the examiner to properly consider patentability of the claimed invention under

35 U.S.C. 102(b), additional information regarding this issue is required as follows:

information regarding the disclosed subject matter's public use and/or sale (e.g. product

road maps, sales presentations, investor disclosures, case studies, product manuals,

product brochures, training courses/materials, user guides/references, evaluator

guides/manuals, etc.), when the disclosed subject matter, was developed, launched,

marketed and sold, when and what clients utilized and/or were provided with services

which utilized the disclosed subject matter as well as any information relied upon in

developing the disclosed subject matter.

     Applicant is reminded that failure to fully reply to this requirement for information

will result in a holding of abandonment.

7.   The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that

form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed

in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for

patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an

international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of

this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the

United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

8.   Claims 1-4, 7-10, 13-19, 21-24 and 28-31 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as

being anticipated by Hayward et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,798,997.

        Regarding Claims 1, 9 and 17 Hayward et al. teach a system and method for

managing printer component inventories comprising (Abstract):

        - defining one or more printer (marking apparatus) component (consumables)

rules for one or more printers in more than one (first/second) organization (entities,

companies, locations, teams, groups, etc.; Column 2, Lines 1-4; Column 6, Lines 35-40;

Column 7, Lines 20-35) wherein each printer component rule defines a printer

component event (action, condition, activity, trigger, etc.) that indicates that the printer

component requires replacement (Column 2, Lines 5-16; Column 6, Lines 1-48; Column

8, Lines 26-45; Figures 4-8);

        - monitoring (polling, watching, detecting, etc.) the printer components more than

one (first/second) organization (location, sites, groups, teams, entities, etc.) printers to

detect an occurrence of a printer component event as defined by the printer component

rule (i.e. the printer component event occurring when the printer component conditions

satisfy at least one of the printer component rules; Column 1, Lines 58-68; Column 2,

Lines 1-50; Column 5, Lines 56-60; Column 6, Lines 1-15; Figures 3-4; Figure 6,

Element S21; Figure 7, Element S32);

- replacing a printer component when a printer component event is detected

(Figures 4-8); and

- wherein the system further includes a processor, memory, computer readable

media containing computer executable instructions, and connection means for

establishing at least one electronic connection (Column 1, Lines 50-63; Column 3, Lines

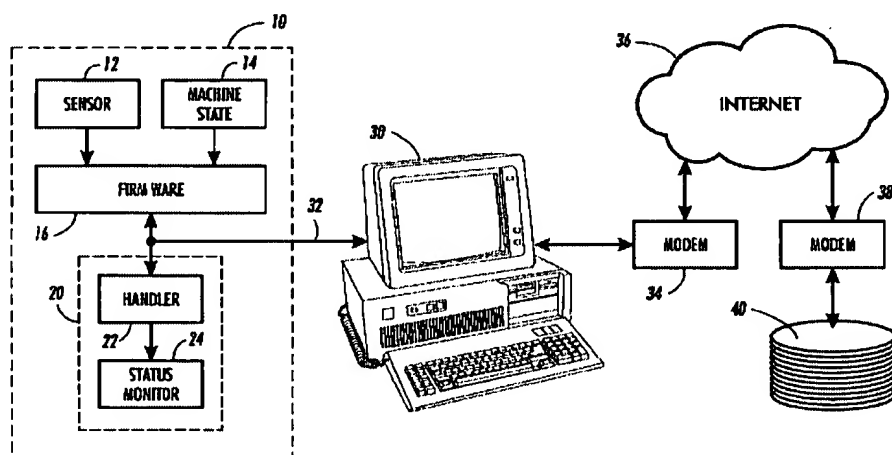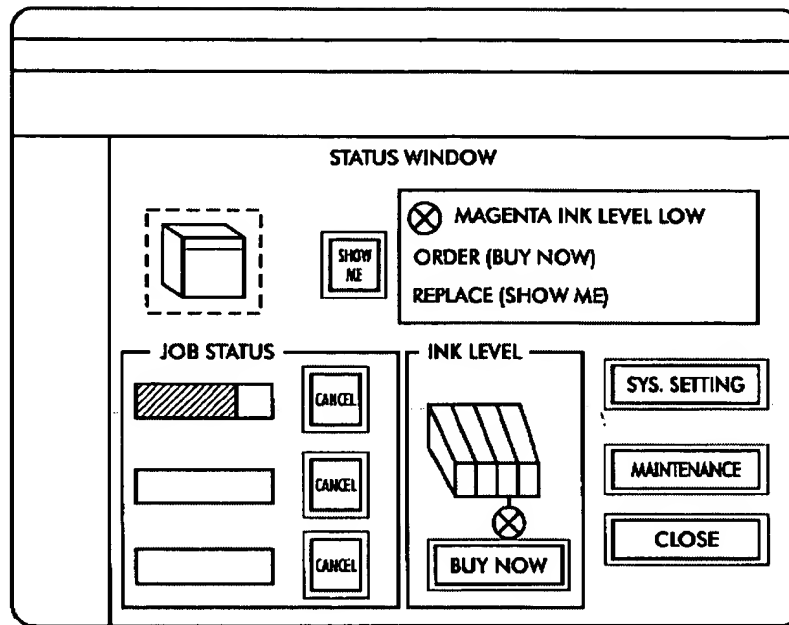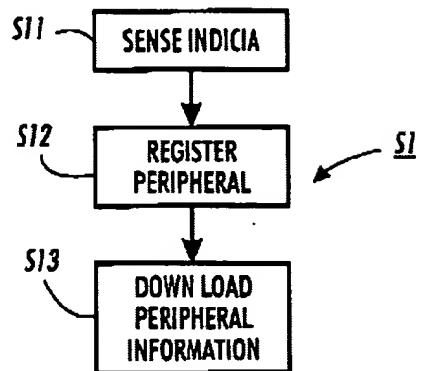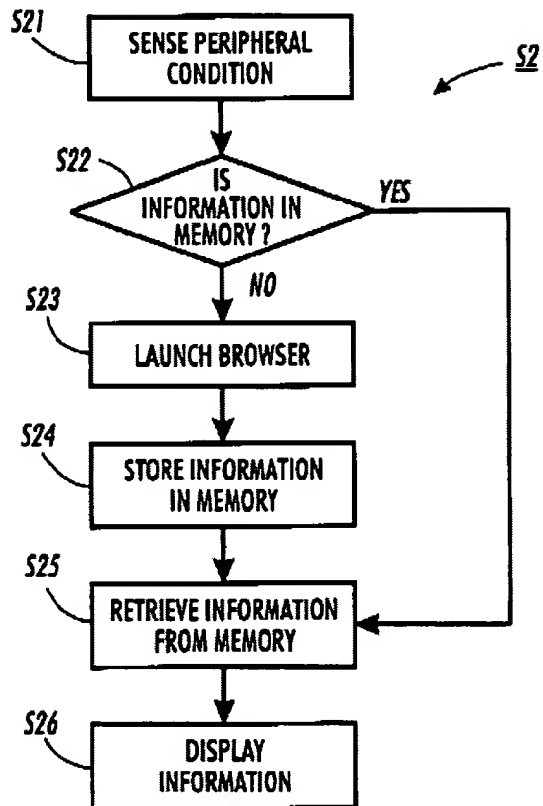39-68; Figure 2, Elements 20, 34, 38; Figure 8, Elements 21, 34, 37).

FIG. 2

STATUS WINDOW

⊗ MAGENTA INK LEVEL LOW

ORDER (BUY NOW)

REPLACE (SHOW ME)

SHOW ME

JOB STATUS

CANCEL

CANCEL

CANCEL

INK LEVEL

BUY NOW

SYS. SETTING

MAINTENANCE

CLOSE

FIG. 4

S11 — SENSE INDICIA

S12 — REGISTER PERIPHERAL   → S1

S13 — DOWN LOAD PERIPHERAL INFORMATION

FIG. 5

S21 — SENSE PERIPHERAL CONDITION   → S2

S22 — IS INFORMATION IN MEMORY ?   YES

NO

S23 — LAUNCH BROWSER

S24 — STORE INFORMATION IN MEMORY

S25 — RETRIEVE INFORMATION FROM MEMORY

S26 — DISPLAY INFORMATION

FIG. 6

S31 SENSE PERIPHERAL INDICIA

S3

S32 SENSE PERIPHERAL CONDITION

S33 LAUNCH BROWSER

S34 DISPLAY PURCHASE ORDER

S35 COMPLETE PERSONAL DATA

S36 SEND PURCHASE ORDER

FIG. 7

8

12 SENSOR

11 CONSUMABLE COMPONENT

16 PROCESSOR, SOFTWARE AND LOGIC SYSTEM

21 OUTPUT DEVICE

50 REMOTE OUTPUT DEVICE

36 INTERNET

34 MODEM

38 MODEM

37

40
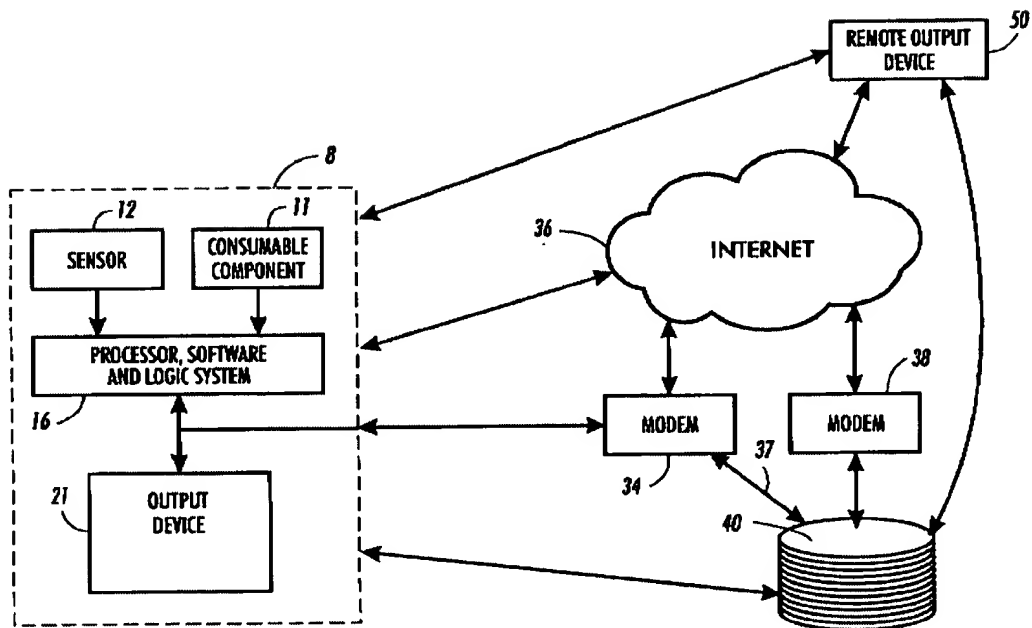
FIG. 8

Regarding Claims 2-3, 10 and 18-19 Hayward et al. teach a system and method for managing printer components wherein replacing the printer component further comprises ordering and shipping the printer component to a location in which the printer component event was detected ("Buy Now", shipment options; Column 4, Lines 38-46; Column 8, Lines 46-53; Figures 4, 7).

Regarding Claim 4 Hayward et al. teach a system and method for managing printer components wherein the printer components are at least one of the following (selected from the following list): toner cartridge, ink cartridge, ribbon cartridge, dry medium cartridge, ink bladder, photoconductor, drum, belt, developer assembly, cleaning roller, oiling roller, transfer assemblies or print head (Column 1, Lines 20-24; Column 9, Lines 38-42).

Further it is noted that the list of printer components merely represents non-functional descriptive material and are not functionally involved in the steps recited nor do they alter the recited structural elements. The recited method steps would be performed the same regardless of the specific printer component(s) being managed. Further, the structural elements remain the same regardless of the specific printer component(s) being managed. Thus, this descriptive material will not distinguish the claimed invention from the prior art in terms of patentability, *see In re Gulack, 703 F.2d 1381, 1385, 217 USPQ 401, 404 (Fed. Cir. 1983); In re Lowry, 32 F.3d 1579, 32 USPQ2d 1031 (Fed. Cir. 1994); MPEP 2106.*

Regarding Claims 7, 16 and 22 Hayward et al. teach a system and method for

managing printer components wherein detecting the printer component event further

comprises receiving a notification (message, alert, call, etc.) from an organization

(individual, user, team, group, entity, company, location, entity, etc.) that the printer

component event has occurred in one of the organization's printers (e.g. user checks

printer status and decides to click "Buy Now" based on the status of the monitored

printer component which then sends a purchase request to a third party system

requesting the replacement printer component; Column 7, Lines 50-68; Figures 5-6).

Regarding Claims 8, 14 and 21 Hayward et al. teach a system and method for

managing printer components wherein monitoring further comprises periodically polling

(interrogating) the status (condition, etc.) of the printer components in the more than

one organizations (locations, sites, entities, team, groups, businesses, etc.; Column 8,

Lines 32-45; Column 9, Lines 10-15).

Regarding Claim 13 Hayward et al. teach a system and method for managing

printer components wherein the connection means is a modem that provides a

telephone line connection with a computing device (Column 3, Lines 39-68; Column 4,

Lines 1-9; Figures 2, 8, Element 38).

Regarding Claim 15 Hayward et al. teach a system and method for managing

printer components wherein monitoring further comprises receiving a notification (alert,

message, etc.) from the printer that a printer component event has occurred (Column 6,

Lines 35-63; Column 8, Lines 26-45; Column 9, Lines 1-15; Figures 6-8).

Regarding Claims 23 Hayward et al. teach a system and method for managing

printer components wherein the monitoring further comprises using processing circuitry

(component, subsystem, module, etc.; Figures 1-2, Element 10; Figure 8, Element 8).

Regarding Claims 24 and 31 Hayward et al. teach a system and method for

managing printer components wherein the monitoring further comprises using an entity

(person, company, computer, system, module, component, code, etc.) remotely

spatially (different location, another room, another office, etc.) located from at least one

of the organizations (persons, groups, entities, locations, businesses, etc.) printers

(Column 6, Lines 35-40; Column 9, Lines 1-20; Figure 2, Elements 34, 36, 38, 40;

Figure 8, Elements 34, 36, 38, 40, 50).

Regarding Claim 28 Hayward et al. teach a system and method for managing

printer components further comprising storing thresholds (events, levels, conditions,

triggers, etc.) for a plurality of printers in more than one organization (first/second) and

to communicate with the printers (Column 2, Lines 43-51).

Regarding Claim 29 Hayward et al. teach a system and method for managing

printer components wherein the ordering further comprises ordering in response to the

occurrence of a printer component event in one of the printers (Column 1, Lines 57-63;

Column 5, Liens 5-12; Column 7, Lines 54-68; Column 8, Lines 1-45; Figure 6-7).

Regarding Claim 30 Hayward et al. teach a system and method for managing

printer components wherein the monitoring further comprises monitoring printer

component conditions (levels, status, events, thresholds, etc.) in a plurality of printers of

a plurality of organizations (teams, locations, personnel, sites, entities, businesses, etc.;

Column 1, Lines 58-68; Column 2, Lines 1-50; Column 5, Lines 56-60; Column 6, Lines

1-15; Figures 3-4; Figure 6, Element S21; Figure 7, Element S32).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

9.   The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all

obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set
> forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and
> the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the
> invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains.
> Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

10.   Claims 5-6, 11-12 and 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being

unpatentable over Hayward et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,798,997 as applied to claims 1-4,

7-10, 13-19, 21-24 and 28-31 above and further in view of Haines et al., U.S. Patent No.

6,295,423.

Regarding Claim 5 Hayward et al. teach a system and method for managing a

plurality of printer components (devices, consumables, replacements, parts, peripherals,

etc.) and that the system/method detects/monitors a plurality of printer component

conditions including but not limited to low media (ink, toner, etc.) levels (Column 6,

Lines 8-12; Column 9, Lines 26-32 and 40-42; Figure 4, "Status Window").

Hayward et al. does not expressly teach that the printer component is a toner

cartridge for a *laser printer* or subsequently that the printer component event is a low

toner condition in the toner cartridge (for the laser printer) as claimed.

Haines et al. teach that the printer component is a toner cartridge for a laser

printer (Column 5, Lines 14-63) and that the printer component event is a low toner

condition for a laser printer (Column 1, Lines 45-50; Column 7, Lines 55-68) in an

analogous art of printer component management for the purposes of enabling users to

manage any of a plurality of types of consumables (Column 3, Lines 20-29).

Haines et al. further teach a method and system for managing printer component

(part, product, item, supply, material, consumable, replaceable, etc.) inventories (stock,

supply, etc.) comprising:

- defining one or more printer component rules (thresholds, criteria, parameters,

etc.) for one or more printers in one or more organizations (groups, teams, divisions,

entities, businesses, etc.) wherein each rule defines a printer component replacement

(replenish, reorder, restock, etc.) event (low toner/paper, etc.; Column 2, Lines 20-62;

Column 5, Lines 65-68; Column 6, Lines 1-60; Figures 3, Elements 33; Figures 4-5;

Table 1);

- monitoring printer components in printers to detect the occurrence of an event

defined by a printer component rule (criteria, threshold, etc.; "Lifetime Monitoring

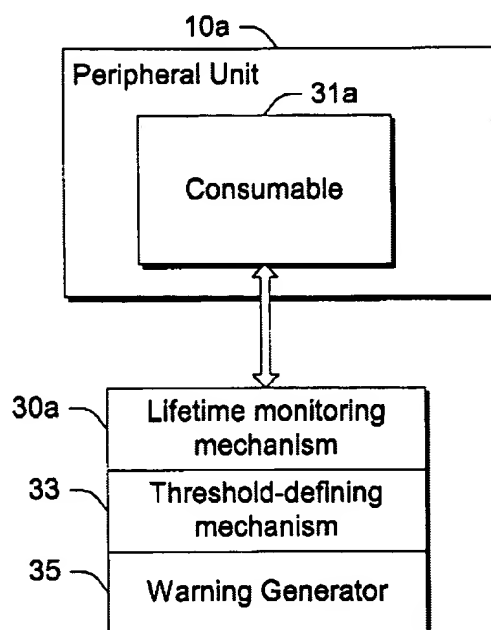Mechanism"; Column 2, Lines 29-40; Figure 3, Element 30a); and

- replacing a printer component when a printer component event is detected in a

printer ("When the lifetimes of such components have expired, they must be replaced.",

Column 1, Lines 28-29; "This can greatly facilitate replacement, reordering and

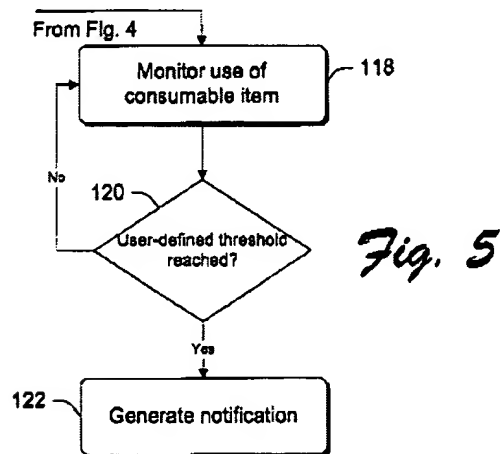restocking of the consumable items.", Column 9, Lines 1-2);

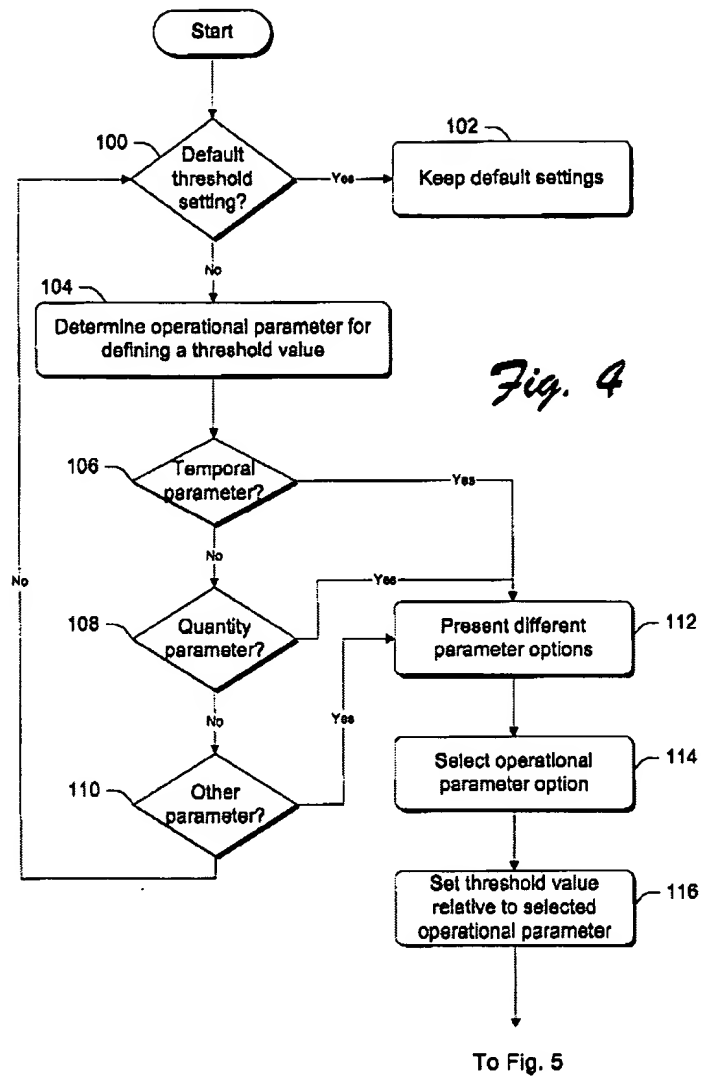- wherein monitoring includes receiving (viewing, providing, etc.) notification

(warning, alarm, alert, message, etc.) from an organization (printer, group, entity, user,

system, etc.) that a printer event has occurred (Column 2, Lines 38-40; column 6, Lines

10-16; Figure 3, Element 35); and

    - a plurality of printers and computers connected via a network (Figure 1;

Column 3, Lines 33-47).

Fig. 3

Start

100 — Default threshold setting? —Yes→ 102 — Keep default settings

No

104 — Determine operational parameter for defining a threshold value

Fig. 4

106 — Temporal parameter? —————————Yes—————

No

108 — Quantity parameter? ——Yes—→ 112 — Present different parameter options

No

110 — Other parameter? —Yes→

114 — Select operational parameter option

116 — Set threshold value relative to selected operational parameter

To Fig. 5

From Fig. 4

118 — Monitor use of consumable item

No

120 — User-defined threshold reached?

Fig. 5

Yes

122 — Generate notification

It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time of the invention that the system and method for managing printer components as taught by Hayward et al. with its ability to monitor a plurality of printer components conditions/events would have benefited from monitoring/detecting a low toner event for a laser printer toner in view of the teachings of Haines et al.; the resultant system/method enabling users to manage any of a plurality of types of consumables (Haines et al.: Column 3, Lines 20-29).

Further it is noted that the phrase "laser" toner merely represents non-functional descriptive material and are not functionally involved in the steps recited nor do they alter the recited structural elements. The recited method steps would be performed the same regardless of the specific printer component(s) being managed. Further, the structural elements remain the same regardless of the specific printer component(s) being managed. Thus, this descriptive material will not distinguish the claimed invention from the prior art in terms of patentability, *see In re Gulack, 703 F.2d 1381, 1385, 217 USPQ 401, 404 (Fed. Cir. 1983); In re Lowry, 32 F.3d 1579, 32 USPQ2d 1031 (Fed. Cir. 1994); MPEP 2106.*

Regarding Claims 6, 11 and 20 Hayward et al. does not expressly teach providing an interface to allow organizations to define printer component rules for their organization(s) as claimed.

Haines et al. teach enabling organizations (users, divisions, companies, entities, groups, teams, printer, etc.) to define printer component (part, item, material, supply, etc.) rules (threshold, criteria, parameters, etc.) for each printer/organization via an interface ("... a user-interface such as a printer control panel interface and display 22 (FIG. 2) can query the users as to their preferences.", Column 6, Lines 32-34; Column 6, Lines 27-65; Figure 2, Element 22), in an analogous art of printer component management for the purposes of providing users with flexible (user configurable) printer component event notification (Column 2, Lines 25-40) and management.

Haines et al. further teach that the printer component management system and method comprises:

- storing printer/printer component events (jobs, usage, print job characteristics, history, etc.) in a table (file, database, etc.) for one or more printers/organizations (Column 7, Lines 55-68; Column 8, Lines 1-11; Figure 6, Elements 46 and 48); and

- enabling users to enter and store (memory, etc.) rules into the (system) via an interface (screen, file, etc.; Column 6, Lines 17-45; Column 7, Lines 10-45; Figures 4-5).

It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time of the invention that the system and method for managing printer components as taught by Hayward et al. would have benefited from enabling organizations to define printer component rules (conditions, thresholds, triggers, etc.) via an interface in view of the teachings of Haines et al.; the resultant system/method enabling users to configure flexible printer component event rules (Haines et al.: Column 2, Lines 25-40).

Regarding Claim 12 Hayward et al. teach that the system and method for managing printer components further comprises one or more communication means (links) for connecting to the network wherein the connection means includes wired and wireless connections (Column 1, Lines 55-63; Column 4, lines 1-10; Column 3, Liens 39-68; Column 9, Lines 16-20).

Hayward et al. does not expressly teach that the system and method for managing printer components further comprises a network interface card as claimed.

Official notice is taken that the utilizing a network interface card to connect/communication to/with a network is old and very well known.

It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time of the invention that the system and method for managing printer components over a network as taught by Hayward et al. would have benefited from utilizing any of a plurality of well known communication/connection means including but not limited to a network interface card in view of the teachings of official notice.

Further it is noted that while Hayward et al. does not expressly teach the utilization of a *network interface card*; these differences are only found in the non-functional descriptive material and are not functionally involved in the steps recited nor do they alter the recited structural elements. The recited method steps would be

performed the same regardless of the specific connection/communication means/link

used to connect the printer components to the network. Further, the structural elements

remain the same regardless of the specific connection/communication means/link used

to connect the printer components to the network. Thus, this descriptive material will

not distinguish the claimed invention from the prior art in terms of patentability, *see In re*

Gulack, 703 F.2d 1381, 1385, 217 USPQ 401, 404 (Fed. Cir. 1983); In re Lowry, 32

F.3d 1579, 32 USPQ2d 1031 (Fed. Cir. 1994); MPEP 2106.

11.   Claims 25-27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over

Hayward et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,798,997 as applied to claims 1-4, 7-10, 13-19, 21-24

and 28-31 above, and further in view of Fan et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,310,692.

Regarding Claims 25-27 Hayward et al. teach a system and method for

managing printer components wherein the system enables the remote (spatially located

from at least one of the organization(s) printers) monitoring/management of the plurality

of printer components (marking apparatus) as discussed above.

Hayward et al. does not expressly teach using a *single entity* to monitor the

printers via the connection means as claimed.

Fan et al. teach using a single (centralized) entity (person, company, computer,

system, module, component, code, etc.) to monitor a plurality of printers in a plurality of

organizations via a connection means in analogous art of peripheral management for

the purposes of enabling a user to dynamically monitor a plurality of printer resources

from a central/single location (Column 5, Lines 60-65).

More generally Fan et al. teach a system and method for managing a plurality of

printers/printer resources (supplies, components) remotely and locally (multiple devices,

multiple organizations) for a plurality of organizations comprising:

    - detecting and reporting a plurality of printer component user-configurable issues/conditions (rules, thresholds, etc.; Column 3, Lines 1-30; Column 4, Lines 15-62);

    - enabling both push (notification, alerts) and pull (polling) monitoring of the plurality of printer components (Column 5, Lines 1-14);

    - a database for storing a plurality of system/device parameters (attributes; Column 2, Lines 21-29; Figure 2); and

    - enabling users to define notification profiles for the plurality of printer components which define the when, who and what relating to printer condition statusing/notifications (Column 5, Lines 37-65).

It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time of the invention that the system and method for managing and monitoring printer components as taught by Hayward et al. would have benefited from centrally monitoring and managing the plurality of printer components (single entity) in view of the teachings of Fan et al.; the resultant system/method monitor a plurality of printer resources from a central/single location thereby eliminating the need for a user (personnel) to be physically be at each printer in order to manage it (Fan et al.: Column 5, Lines 60-65).

Conclusion

Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

- Matsumoto et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,291,420, teach a system and method for remotely managing a plurality of equipment (printers).

- Aikens et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,414,494, teach a system and method managing machines (printers) wherein the machines automatically notify remote stations (organization, system) of a condition upon the detection of the condition by the monitoring element/subsystem.

- Motoyama, Tetsuro, U.S. Patent No. 5,909,493, teaches a system and method for remotely monitoring and managing a plurality of machines (devices, printers, etc.) over a network.

- Kodimer et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,003,078, teach a system and method for remotely monitoring and managing a plurality of network peripheral devices (network printers) for a plurality of organizations wherein upon the detection of a predefined network peripheral condition the system/method automatically transmits a service request to a remote (spatially located) single entity (e.g. service personnel).

- Helterline et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,264,301, teach a system and method for monitoring printer components wherein the monitoring is done with processing circuitry.

- Wood et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,453,127, teach a system and method for remotely monitoring and managing a plurality of copiers/printers over a network.

- Kim et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,473,788, teach an online system and method for managing and monitoring a plurality of network peripherals (networked printers).

- Hayward et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,629,134, teach a system and method for monitoring and managing a plurality of remote devices (printers) wherein the system/method detects conditions which fall below predetermined thresholds (e.g. a printer consumable reaching a predetermined level) and then automatically connects to a single entity (e.g. manufacturers web site) to resolve the detected conditions/error codes (e.g. ordering replacement supplies via the manufacturers web site based on the detected condition and information about the specific printer).

- Hayward et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,985,877, teach a system and method for ordering peripheral consumable supplies/replacement parts/components based on detected/monitored conditions.

- Kaufman et al., U.S. Patent Publication No. 2002/0163662, teach a system and method for automatically ordering consumable media (e.g. printer components) based on detected/monitored condition(s) of a peripheral.

- Hayward et al., U.S. Patent Publication No. 2005/0074246, teach a system and method for remotely monitoring and managing networked peripherals.

- Kodimer et al., EP 0843229A2, teach a system and method for monitoring a plurality of networked peripherals (printers) wherein detected/monitored peripheral conditions are automatically communicated to a single remote entity.

- Hayward et al., EP 1085441A2, teach a system and method for ordering peripheral components upon the detection of a condition reaching a threshold.

- Onaga, Tyson, EP0859308A2, teaches a system and method for monitoring and managing a plurality of printers.

- JP200187698, Ricoh KK, teaches a system and method for automatically replenishing consumables based on monitored/detected conditions/rules.

- Schwartz et al., HP's Web JetAdmin puts printer controls on Web Pages (1996) teach a commercially available product for remotely monitoring and management of a plurality of printers for a plurality of organizations.

- IBM Introduces Industry's First Java Application for Intranet Printer Management (1997) teaches a commercially available system and method for remotely

monitoring and managing a plurality of peripherals wherein the system/method includes the management of consumables.

- HP advances web-based printer-management software (1997) teaches a commercially available remote printer management system and method.

- Xerox launches breakthrough printer software (1998) teaches a commercially available system and method to "proactively manage and gauge the usage of a broad range of printers" wherein the system/method "will notify the systems administrator if one of the printers is off-line, needs more toner or is low on paper."

- Extended Systems Printer Servers Provide Support for HP JetAdmin and Offer New Web Configuration Capabilities (1998) teaches a system and method for remotely monitoring and managing a plurality of printers.

- Lexmark extends powerful printer management capability to printers from all major manufacturers (1998) teaches a commercially available system and method for remote printer management which includes real-time status alerts (toner level, paper low, etc.).

- IBM.com Network Printer Manager Web Pages (2000) teaches a commercially available system and method for monitoring a plurality of printer components for a plurality of organizations including configurable alarms/alert, printer status monitoring and the like.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Scott L. Jarrett whose telephone number is (571) 272-7033. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday, 8:00AM - 5:00PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Hafiz Tariq can be reached on (571) 272-6729. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

SJ
3/16/2006

TARIQ R. HAFIZ
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 3600